

## CLAIMS

1       1. (Original) A communications system for servicing customers connected to access  
2 points and using an established backhaul transport to an office comprising:  
3       one or more environmentally hardened remote digital subscriber line access multiplexers,  
4       connecting means for connecting said access multiplexers to said access points,  
5       an alternate backhaul transport for connecting said access multiplexers to provide  
6       broadband services to said customers.

1       2. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said access multiplexers  
2 are all-weather hardened for outdoor installation.

1       3. (Original) The communications system of Claim 2 wherein said access multiplexers  
2 are located in utility-pole mountable enclosures.

1       4. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said access multiplexers  
2 include a processor unit, an ATM assembler and disassembler unit and an ATM switch fabric.

1       5. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein each of said access  
2 multiplexers includes a master unit and one or more trunk interface units.

1       6. (Original) The communications system of Claim 5 wherein said master unit is in an  
2 all-weather hardened enclosure and said trunk interface units are each in separate all-weather  
3 hardened trunk interface enclosures.

1       7. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said alternate backhaul  
2 transport includes a network of ATM switches.

1 8. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said alternate backhaul  
2 transport includes,  
3 a plurality of ATM switches connected by a plurality of first transports to form a first  
4 network,  
5 a plurality of second transports connecting said access multiplexers to form a second  
6 network,  
7 a plurality of third transports connecting said second network to said first network.

1 9. (Original) The communications system of Claim 8 wherein said first transports, said  
2 second transports and said third transports are wireless.

1 10. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said alternate backhaul  
2 transport includes a network of ATM switches supervised by an element manager.

1 11. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said alternate backhaul  
2 transport includes ATM switches connected by transports in a mesh network.

1 12. (Original) The communications system of Claim 11 wherein said transports are  
2 wireless.

1 13. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said office is an ILEC  
2 central office.

1 14. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said alternate backhaul  
2 transport connects to a CLEC office.

1 15. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said alternate backhaul  
2 transport connects to other networks.

1 16. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said office is an ILEC  
2 central office and said alternate backhaul transport connects to a CLEC office.

1 17. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said office is an ILEC  
2 central office and said alternate backhaul transport connects to a CLEC office and to said ILEC  
3 central office.

1 18. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said office is an ILEC  
2 central office and said alternate backhaul transport connects to a CLEC office, said ILEC central  
3 office and to other networks.

1 19. (Original) The communications system of Claim 18 wherein said other networks  
2 include the Internet.

3 20. (Original) A communications system for servicing customers connected to access  
4 points and using an established backhaul transport to an office comprising:

5 one or more all-weather environmentally hardened remote digital subscriber line access  
6 multiplexers in utility-pole mountable enclosures,

7 connecting means for connecting said access multiplexers to said access points,

8 an alternate backhaul transport for connecting said access multiplexers to provide

9 broadband services to said customers wherein said alternate backhaul transport  
10 includes,

11 a plurality of ATM switches connected by a plurality of first wireless  
12 transports to form a first mesh network having redundant  
13 connections,

14 a plurality of second wireless transports connecting said access  
multiplexers to form a second mesh network having redundant  
connections,

15                   a plurality of third wireless transports connecting said second network to  
16                   said first network.

1           21. (Original) The communications system of Claim 20 wherein said office is an ILEC  
2           central office and said alternate backhaul transport connects to a CLEC office, said ILEC central  
3           office and to other networks.

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